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THOMAS & FRIENDS

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

Use your free poster from the cover to play a game! You'll need a dice, a friend and two toy engines or cars to use as counters. Place your engines on the 'start' boxes. The youngest player rolls first. The first engine to reach the quarry is the winner.

Look out next issue for free traffic signs to use on your game!

3. The Evacuation
a story to read

8. Look and See
things to spot in a big picture

10. The Slow Race
a rebus picture story

12. Competition Time
you can win a splendid Thomas bike

14. Story Puzzle
tell the story in the right order

16. Poster
a picture to pull out and keep

18. Showered
a rhyming story

22. All about Rheneas
facts about the engine

24. Clockwork Express
a bedtime story

28. Dot to Dot
join the dots to see the picture

30. Sodor Mail
your letters, drawings and photos

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fun to read together

The Evacuation!

1. One day, The Fat Controller sent James to Elsbridge with three extra carriages. The platform was full of people of all ages. "What's going on here?" he whistled.

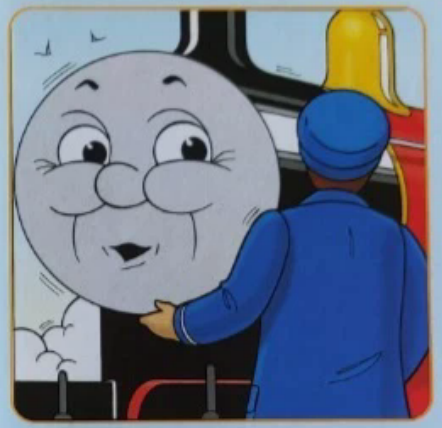
2. A policeman explained, "The demolition men are coming to blow up the old glassworks chimney. Everyone has to evacuate their home for the day!"

3. A man struck up conversation with James before boarding, "It's a chance for a day out on the railway, and it looks like lots of other people had the same idea!"

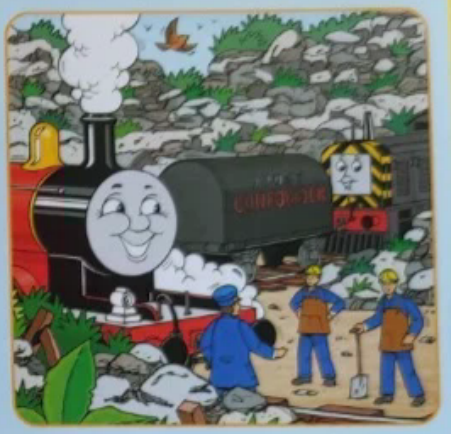
4. James took some people to the towns, others went to the country and the coast. "This is the first time we've pulled an evacuation train!" said Driver.

5. Later, James saw the glassworks chimney still standing. Suddenly, he was waved down by the stationmaster, "Stop, James, the demolition men need you!"

6. "What do they need me for!" puffed James. "They've come all the way from the mainland and they've forgotten their explosives!" explained the stationmaster.

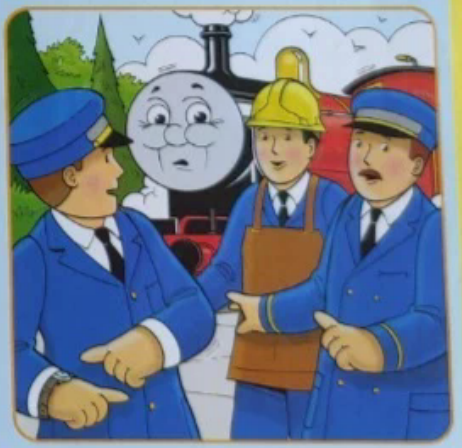


7. "The quarry is only a few miles away," he continued, "so you'll have to go and pick up one of the gunpowder wagons. It's all been agreed with the quarry!"

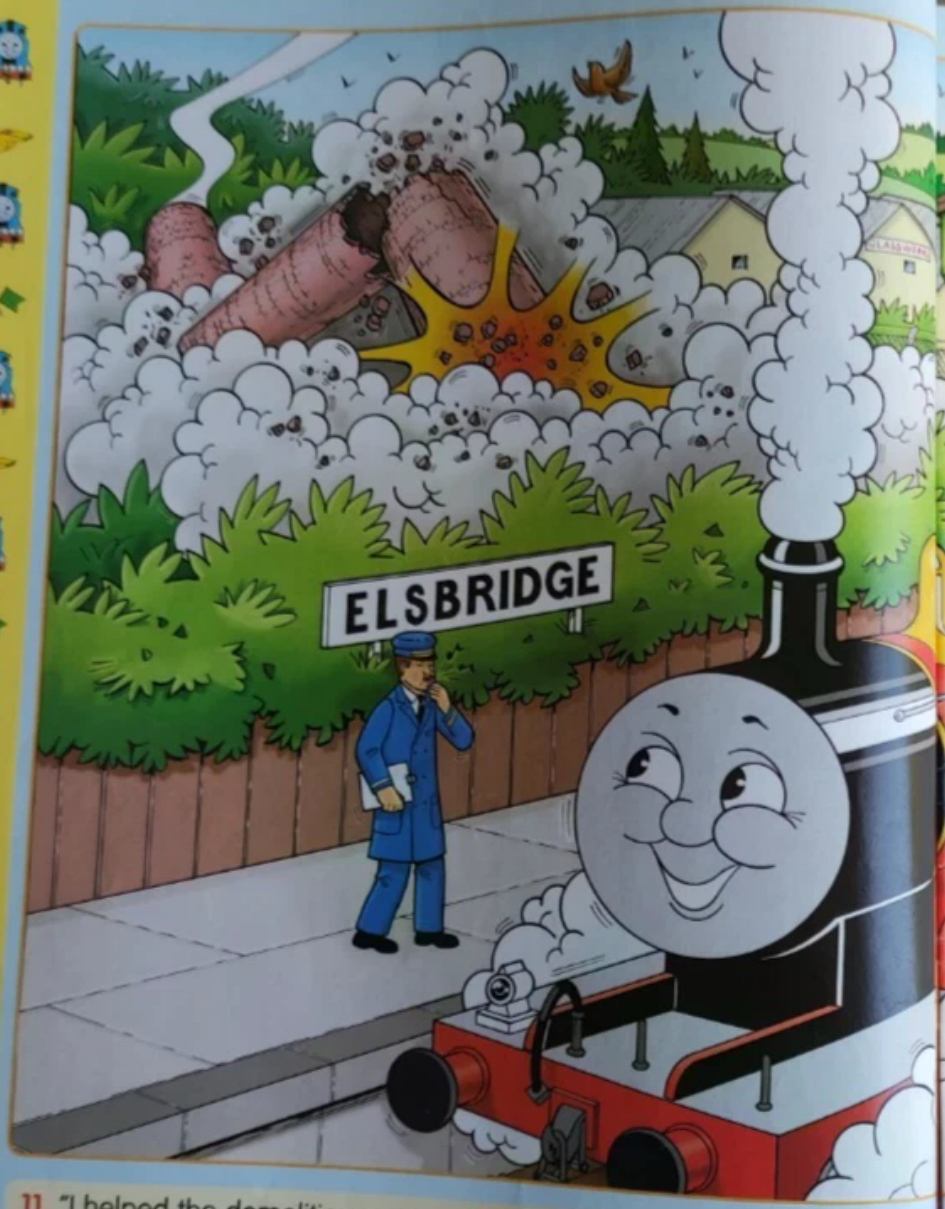


8. James steamed off for the quarry where Mavis shunted one of the gunpowder wagons to him. "We're going to blow up the old glassworks chimney!" said James.

9. "Good work, James, we'll get this job done after all!" said one of the demolition men. "Whenever there's a problem you can rely on me to solve it!" boasted James.



10. James' driver looked at his watch. "It's time to pick the Elsbridge people up!" he said. James was disappointed, "But we'll miss the explosion!"



11. "I helped the demolition men while you were all out for the day, it's a shame I had to pick you up and miss the explosion!" James sulked as he got his passengers.

12. But at Elsbridge, James exclaimed, "The chimney is still standing!" Suddenly, there was a crash and the huge chimney was no more than a cloud of dust.

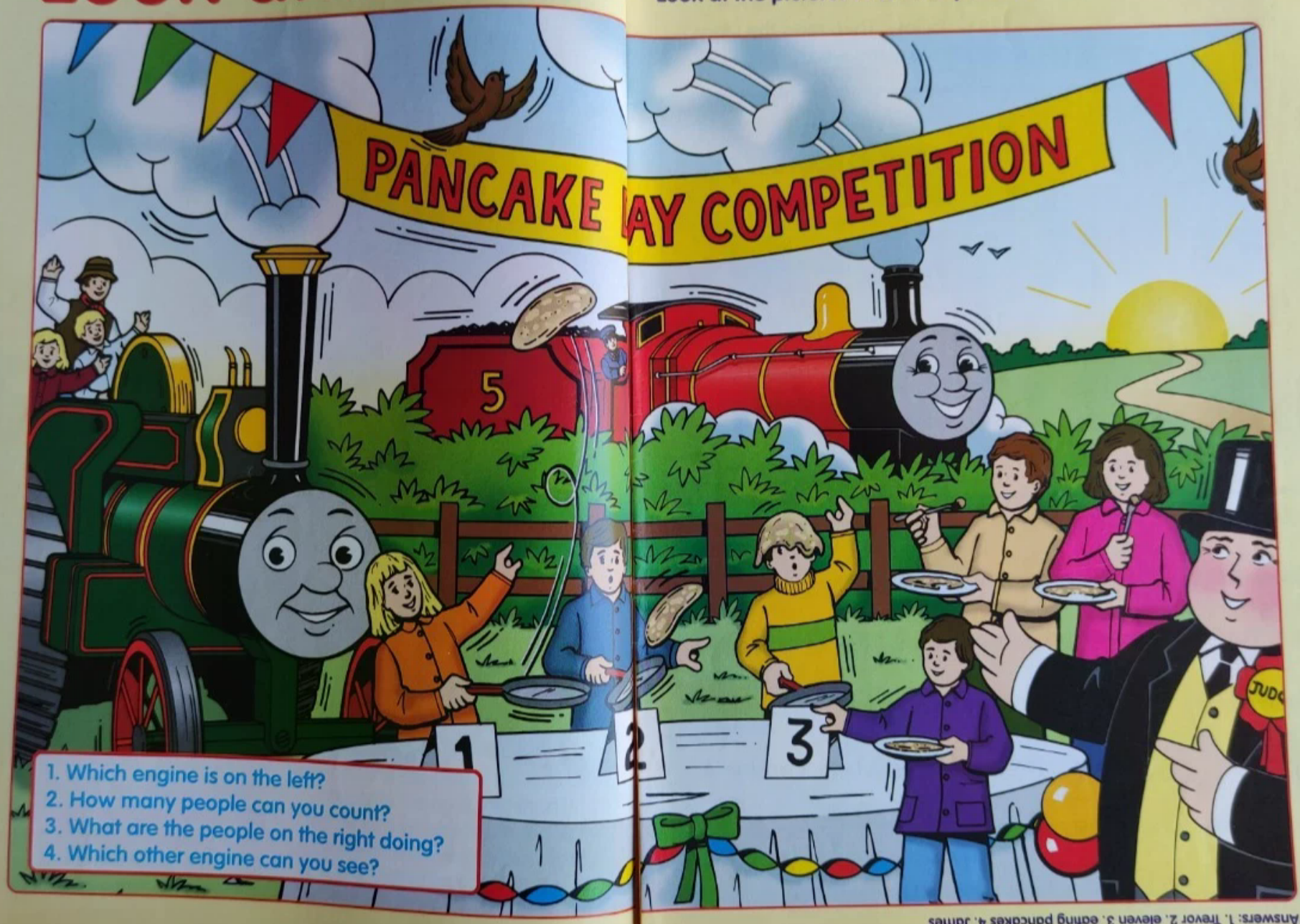
13. "Thank-you, James, I thought we'd miss the explosion!" grinned a boy. The stationmaster shouted, "Will you all stay on board, the dust cloud is coming this way!"

14. The dust soon settled and James' driver stepped out. "James you're a mess!" he smiled. "It's our turn for a day out tomorrow and we'll be at the cleaning station!"

The End

Look and See!

The Fat Controller is the judge of the Pancake Day Competition!
Look at the picture. What can you see?



1. Which engine is on the left?
2. How many people can you count?
3. What are the people on the right doing?
4. Which other engine can you see?

Answers: 1. Trevor 2. eleven 3. eating pancakes 4. James

rebus story

The slow race

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

level crossing

passengers

Thomas

Bertie

sheep

bridge

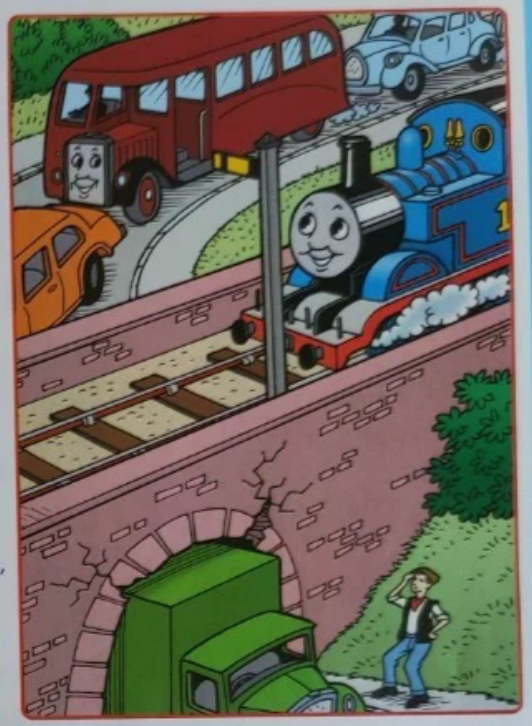
signal

shepherd

road

lorry

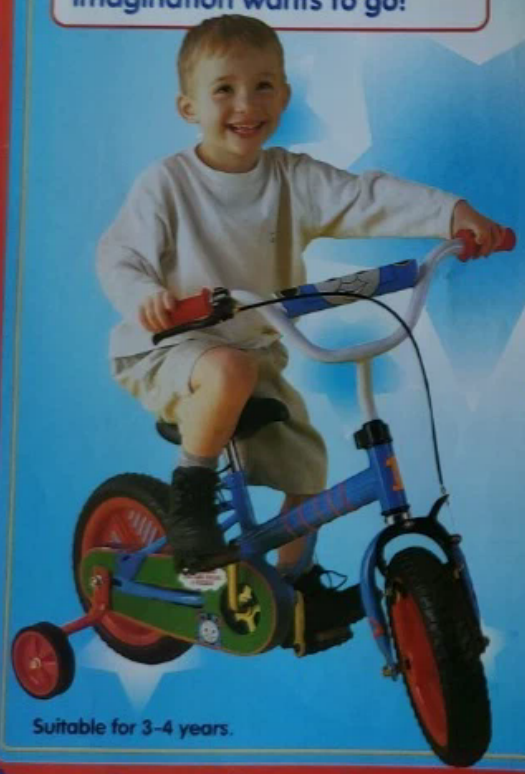
One day, at a , Thomas saw and challenged him to a race. "I'm feeling fast today!" boasted Thomas. "I feel even faster!" laughed Bertie, as he sped off up the road to pick up some . steamed away too, with his passengers, but soon came to another level crossing. There was a with a big flock of going over the level crossing. The sheep walked very slowly, so Thomas had to wait for them, before he could move again. Luckily, though, he saw , looking impatient, in the long line of traffic that was stuck behind the . After the sheep were safely in their field, the race was on. Bertie sped along on the that goes under the railway , but when he got there, he saw a big had got stuck under the bridge and couldn't move. Bertie was stuck in a traffic jam again! Thomas was about to steam over the , when he was stopped by a . The bridge had been damaged by the lorry, so no trains could go over it! saw Bertie and peeped, " , we should have a race to see who could be slowest today! That would be a real contest!"



The End

Wheely Useful Bike!

Heart Character Toys are giving away 5 of these super Thomas bicycles! Painted a brilliant Thomas blue, with red stripes, this bike can take you wherever your imagination wants to go!



Suitable for 3-4 years.

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Is the boy in the photo happy or sad?

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March 31- April 1	Middleton Railway (Nr Leeds, S Yorks) Tel: (0113) 2710320
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Please note: Some of the above railway telephone numbers may be a talking timetable or may require you to leave a message.

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THOMAS & FRIENDS

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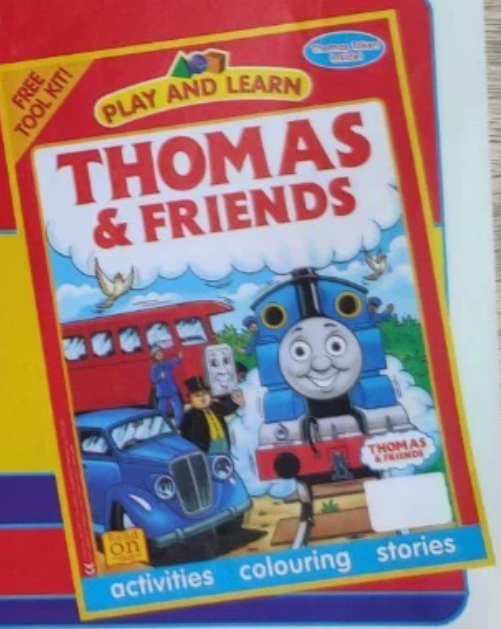


Story puzzle

1

On the way, Thomas spotted Bulstrode on the beach.

3

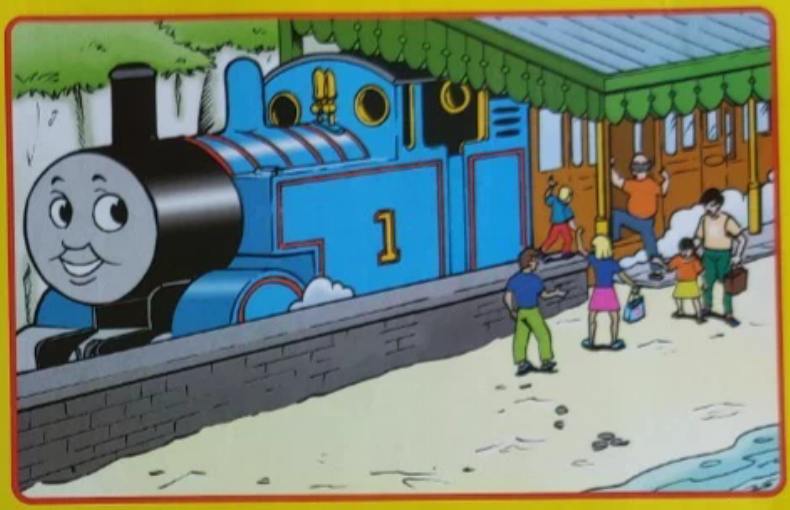
The Fat Controller asked Thomas to go to the beach one day.

The right order is ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

answer: 3, 1, 4, 2

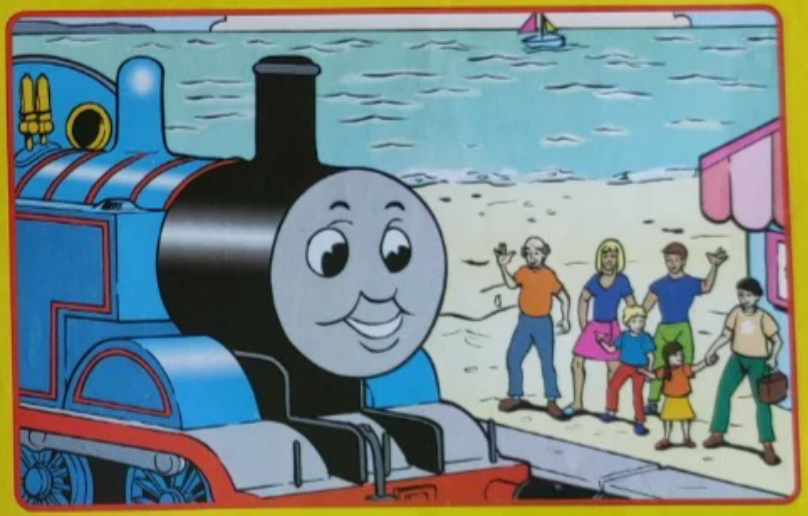
This story is all mixed-up! Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in.

2



All the passengers happily climbed on board.

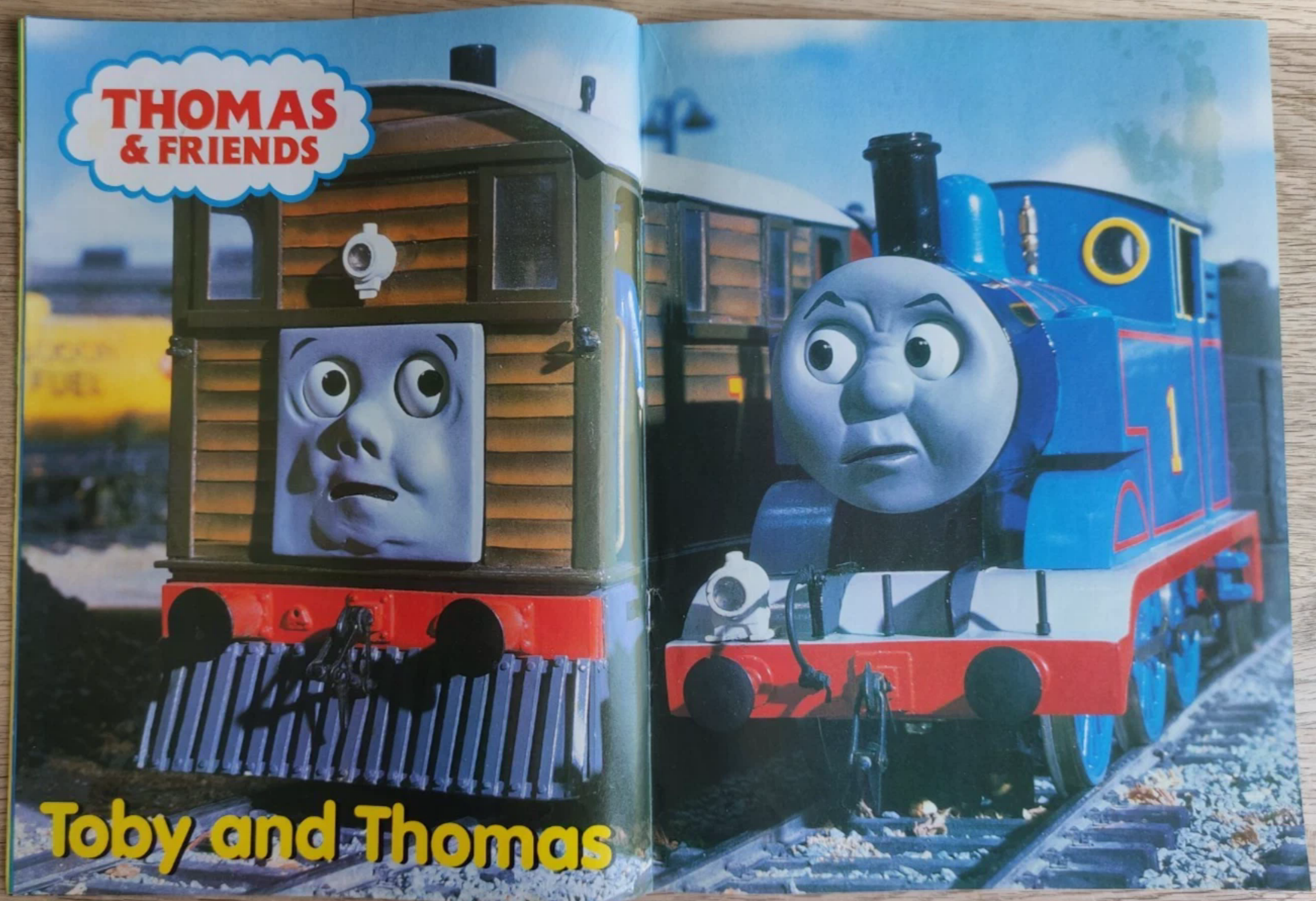
4



Thomas arrived at the station by the beach.

What colour is the sea?

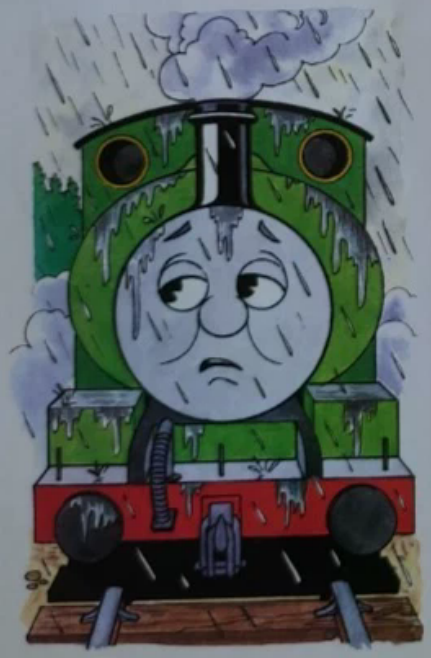
answer: blue

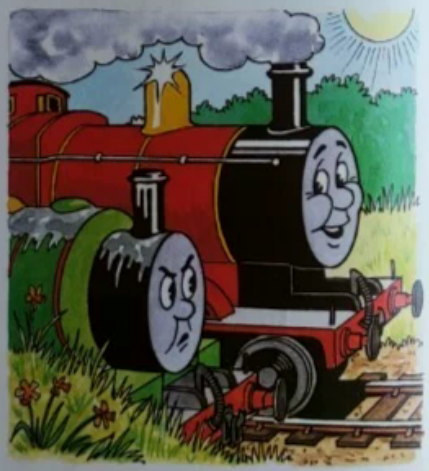

THOMAS
& FRIENDS
Toby and Thomas

Thomas' rhyme time

Showered!

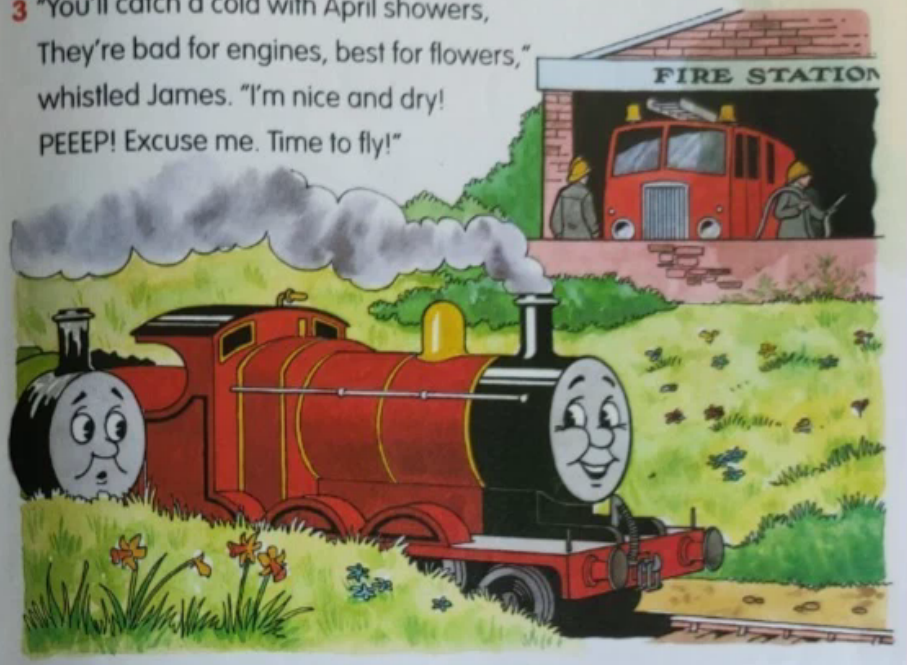
1 Percy pulled the first post train,
"Oh, no!" he cried. "Here comes the rain!"
The weather didn't get any better,
Till after he'd delivered every letter.

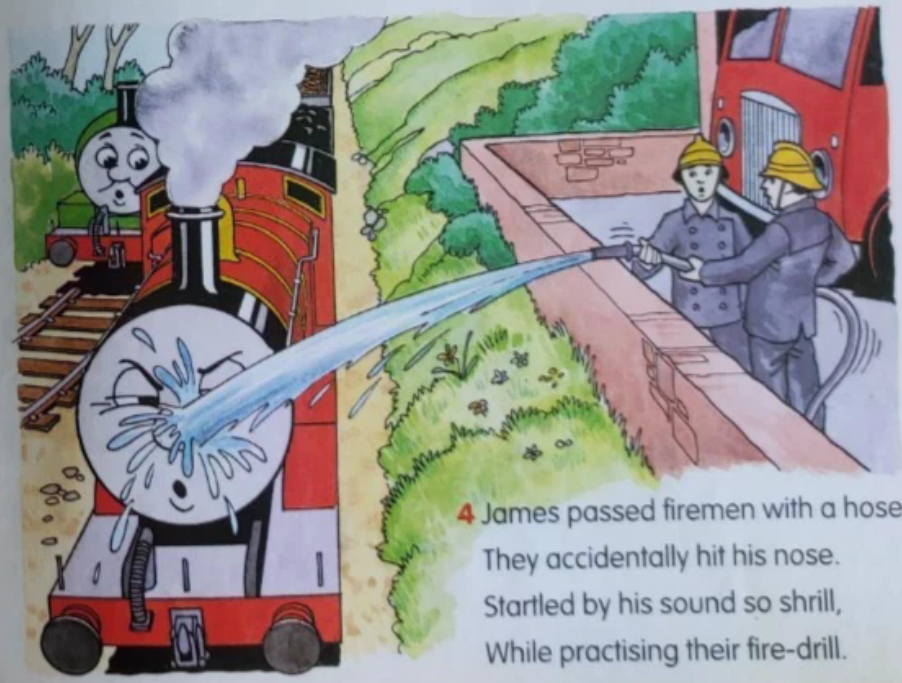




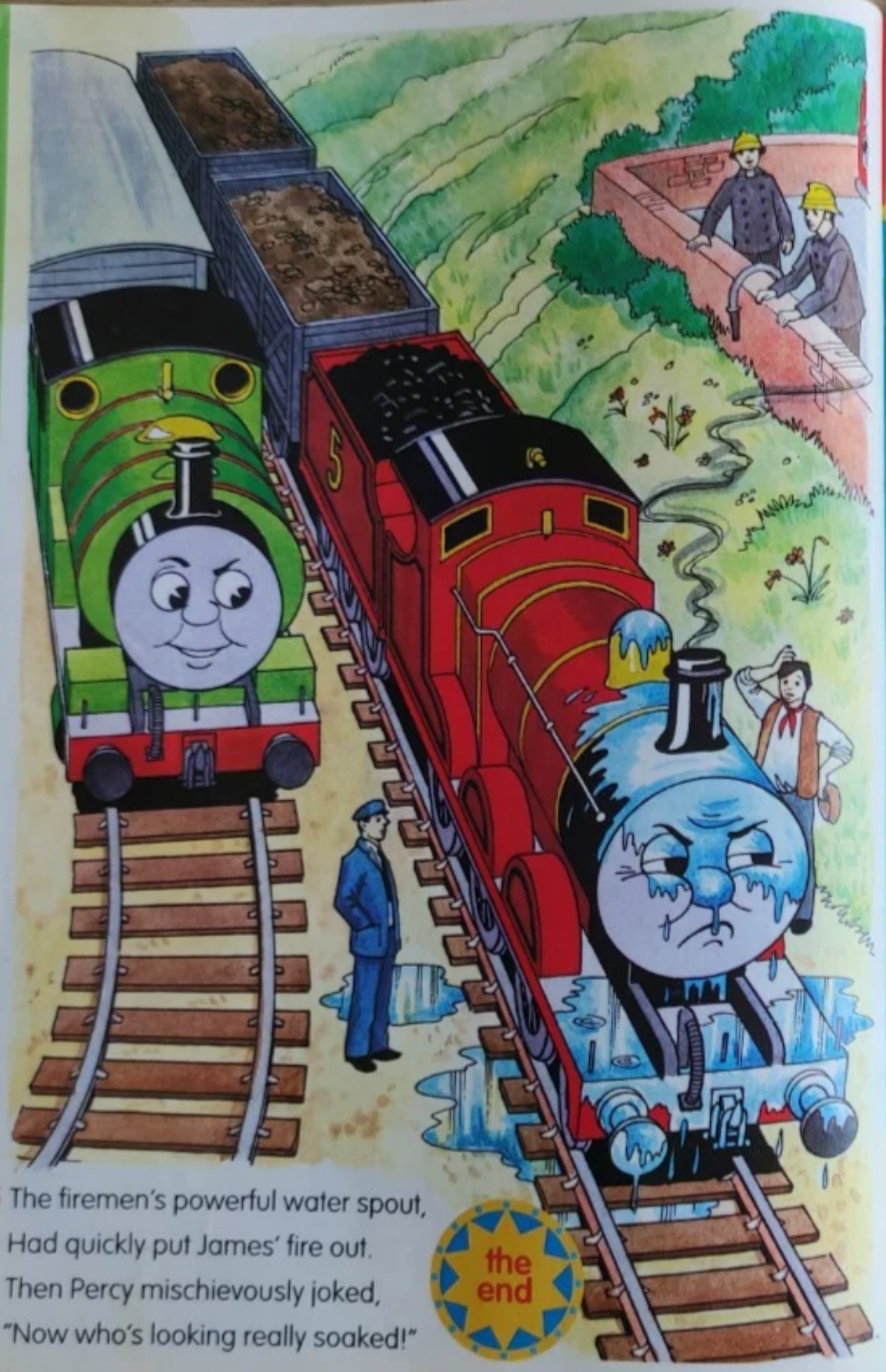
2 James had sheltered in the shed,
His paintwork clean and shiny red.
He called to Percy, "Look at you!
A drippy engine, all soaked through!"

3 "You'll catch a cold with April showers,
They're bad for engines, best for flowers,"
whistled James. "I'm nice and dry!
PEEEP! Excuse me. Time to fly!"





4 James passed firemen with a hose,
They accidentally hit his nose.
Startled by his sound so shrill,
While practising their fire-drill.



5 The firemen's powerful water spout,
Had quickly put James' fire out.
Then Percy mischievously joked,
"Now who's looking really soaked!"

the end

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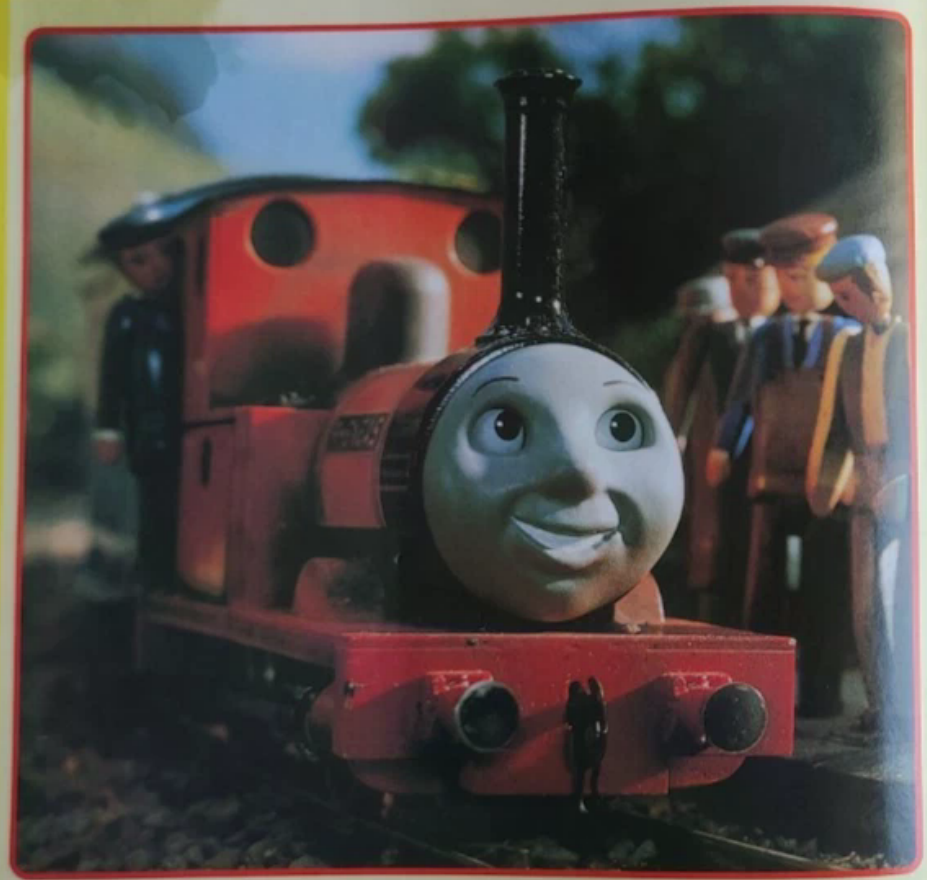
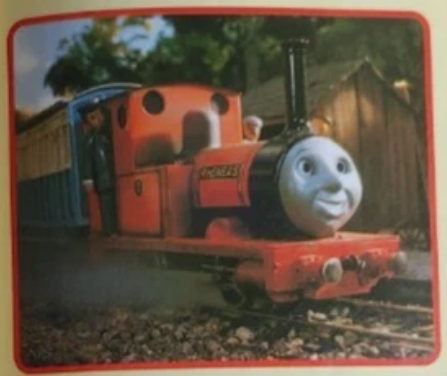
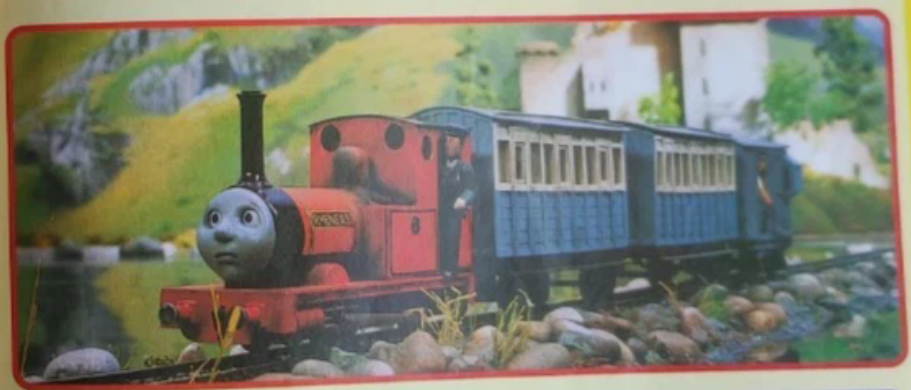
All about...



Rheneas is a tough little engine but because he is quite old he often breaks down mechanically, which he hates. Rheneas works very hard to serve the railway of Sodor. His passengers are his main concern. All the other engines and drivers like and respect him.

Rheneas





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10 lucky readers can win a splendid model of Rheneas from the Racing Champions engine range.

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Just tell us:
What colour is Rheneas?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to:
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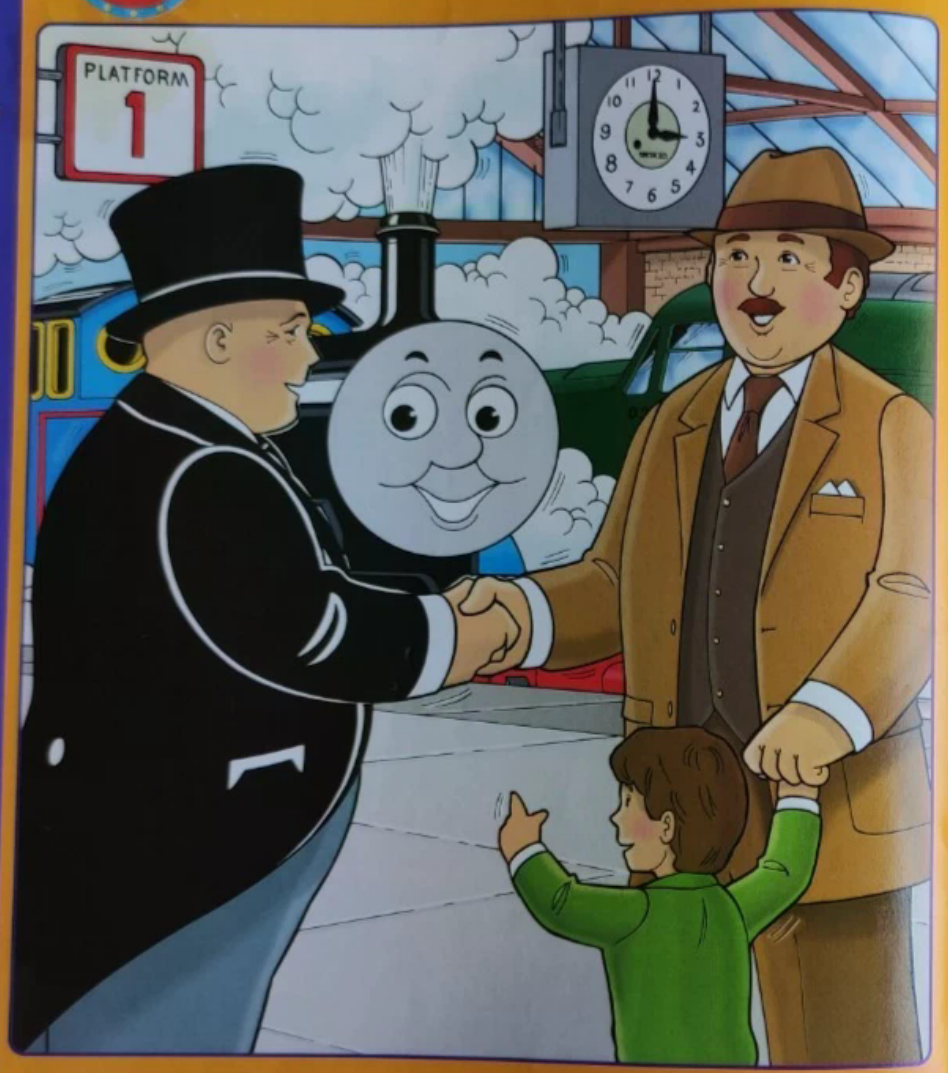
percy's bedtime story

The Clockwork Express



1. Thomas pulled into platform one right on time. A man with his grandson was talking to the Fat Controller, "Sir Topham, I see your railway still runs like clockwork!"

2. "Most of the time it does, but Thomas is playing up a bit just lately!" smiled The Fat Controller. Thomas joined in, "What does running like clockwork mean?"

3. The Fat Controller explained, "I wind up the station clock once a week so it tells the right time, it's never too fast and never too slow. That's running like clockwork!"

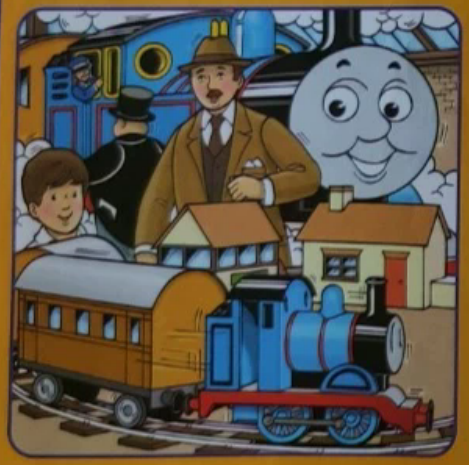
4. "Clockwork isn't just for clocks, anything that you wind up to make it work is called clockwork," said the boy. "Tomorrow I'll show you something else that's clockwork!"

5. The next day, the little boy and his grandfather took his train set to the station. "We'll set it up on the platform right where Thomas always pulls up!" cried the boy.

6. The Fat Controller was keen to help. "We've finished just in time, Thomas is due here at 10 o'clock, that's in two minutes!" he said. The little boy looked out for Thomas.

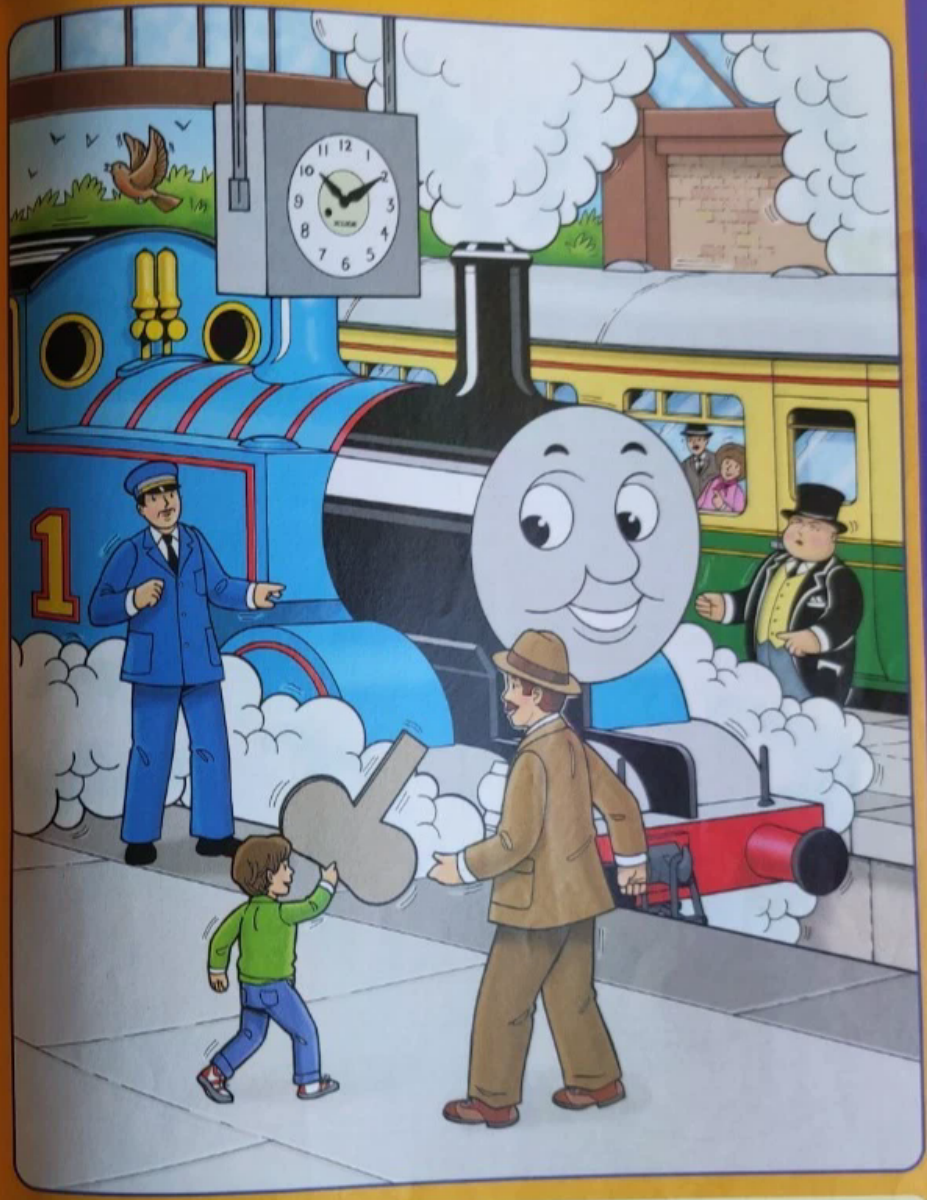
7. The clock struck ten. "Where can he be?" said the little boy. "He won't be long, he's left the shed!" assured The Fat Controller. Sure enough, Thomas arrived, five minutes late!

8. The little boy grinned cheekily at Thomas, "I thought all yesterday's talk about clockwork would make you on time!" Then he picked up his toy engine and wound it up.



9. The little engine raced round and round and Thomas grinned, "All you need is that little key!" Thomas' driver sighed, "I wish it was that easy with you, Thomas!"

10. "That's it," exclaimed the little boy, "I'll sort you out, Thomas. Meet me here again tomorrow, and I'll have just the thing to make you run like clockwork too!"



11. Next morning, Thomas was late again. "This won't do!" bellowed The Fat Controller. The boy smiled, "No, but this will!" He pretended to wind up Thomas with a giant key.

12. "Now I can really run like clockwork!" peeped Thomas. The boy and his grandfather cried, "All aboard the CLOCKWORK EXPRESS, this train always runs on time!"

The End

Dot to Dot!

Join the dots to complete this picture.

Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

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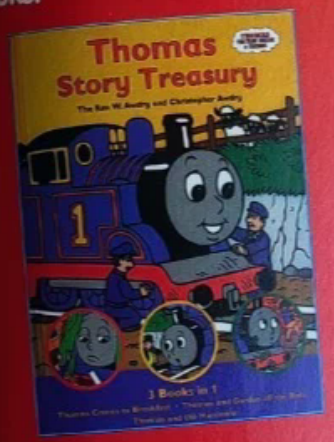

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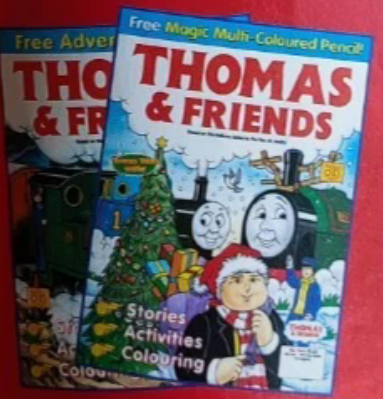

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POSTCODE _____ TEL: _____ D.O.B: _____

PERSON MAKING PAYMENT (if different from subscriber above) Mr ❑ Mrs ❑ Ms ❑

FULL NAME (CAPS) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TEL: _____ D.O.B: _____

I am the Parent/Brother/Sis/Aunt/Uncle/Grandparent/Friend of subscriber PLEASE SIGN _____

I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order for £_____ made payable to EGMONT FLEETWAY LTD (UK BANK OR EUROCHEQUE ONLY)

Please charge £_____ to my VISA/MASTERCARD/EUROCARD/CONNECT/SWITCH

Card Number

Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

Please tick here ❑ if you do not want to receive notice of special offers or new products

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 01795 414 900 Ref. TOM 0349

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

DIRECT Debit

Please use a ball-point pen. Originator's Identification Number 7 6 3 9 3 9

Please fill in the whole form and send it to: Egmont Fleetway Limited Subscriptions, PO Box 315, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DT

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or Building Society branch

To: The Manager _____ Bank or Building Society

Address _____ Postcode

2. Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

3. Branch Sort Code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque)

4. Bank/Building Society account number

5. Reference number (For Office use only)

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society
Please pay Egmont Fleetway Limited Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Egmont Fleetway Limited and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

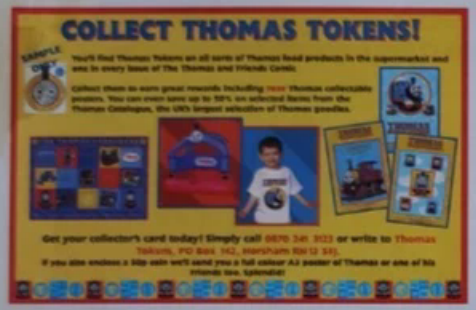
Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some type of accounts.

TOM 03409

Convenient & great value for money!

Sodor mail

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Sodor Mail, Egmont Fleetway, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF



Thomas Token

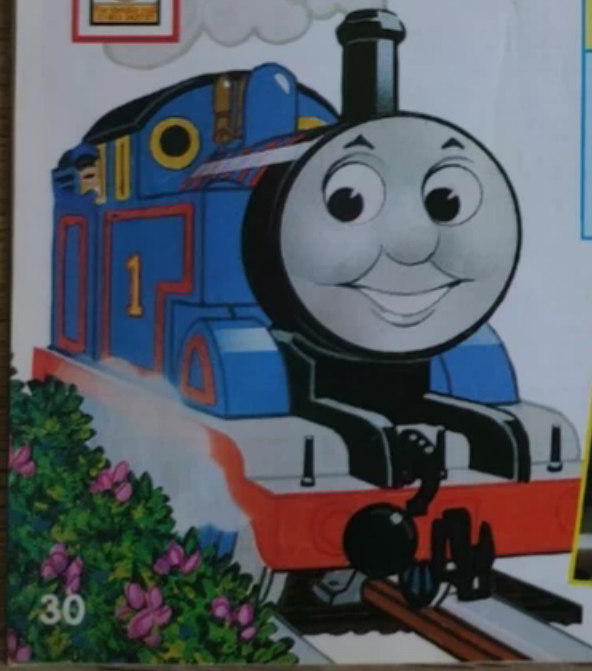
Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!

Star Poem

Tristan Higgins, aged 3, wrote this poem!

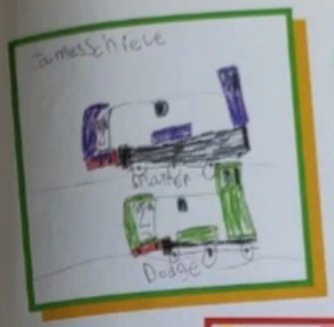
If I were Harold,
I'd fly up high,
And write your name,
Up in the sky,
I'd sign it from all your
Friends, Henry, Percy,
James and all the others too,
And write in big letters,
Thomas we all love you.

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a Thomas Starter Set from Tomy as a prize!



Elliott Avis, aged 3.

Samantha Cabell, aged 3.



Here's a picture of Splatter and Dodge by James Schiele, aged 6.

A great picture of Thomas, Harold and Bertie by Richard Kibler, aged 6.

Matthew Goud, aged 5 drew this splendid picture of Diesel.

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a Thomas Starter Set from Racing Champions!

ERTL

RACING CHAMPIONS

Happy birthday!

To

Matthew Snocken, aged 5.
Georgia Elaine Homer, aged 4.
Lewis Forbes, aged 5.
Daniel Carnegie-Wilson, aged 3.
Lewis Clements, aged 5.
Albert Johnson, aged 3.
Nicholas Finch, ages 6.
Robbie Wastle, aged 4.
Anthony Smith, aged 6.
Connor Holbyn, aged 4.
Thomas Burton, aged 3.
Kurt Heaton, aged 3.
Callum Miller, aged 3.
Peter Stock, aged 4.
Jake Leslie Elliman, aged 3.
Bethany Neal, aged 1.
Nathan Hadley, aged 6.
Sam Whybrow, aged 4.
Conor Barfoot, aged 2.
Thomas Kearsey, aged 3.

Remember to send in your details 4 months before your birthday to be sure it will be printed on time.

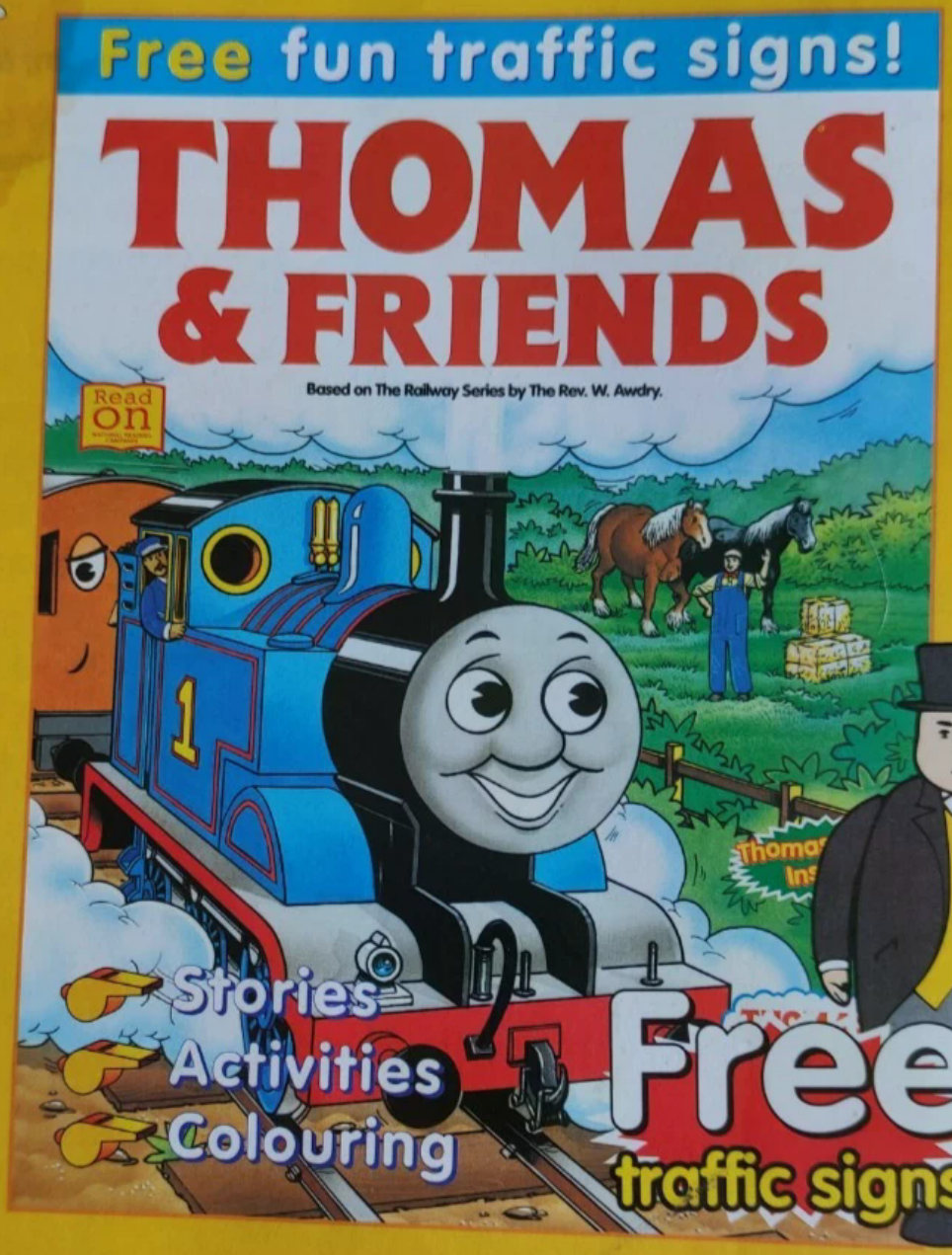
Cameron, aged 3.

Sean Miura-Dent, aged 4.

Michael Yoko, aged 5.

Callum Mercer, aged 4.

Next issue!



Stories to Read • Rhymes and Songs
Puzzles and Activities • Prizes to win
Plus a Thomas token to collect!

Issue 351 on sale from 14th March 2001!